

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A powder applicator including a reservoir for powder, a porous membrane tensioned over said reservoir, and storage means for storing a portion of said powder in the vicinity of said membrane, communicating with said reservoir and including a very open synthetic foam pad between said reservoir and said membrane.

2. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 including a first grid between said reservoir and said pad and fastened to said reservoir.

3. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 2 wherein said first grid is domed and its concave side faces said reservoir.

4. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 2 including a second grid mounted to rotate relative to said first grid between a service position in which orifices of said grids face each other and a storage position in which said orifices are offset relative to each other.

5. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 4 wherein said first grid is domed and its concave side faces said reservoir said second grid is domed and espouses the shape of said first grid.

6. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 2 wherein said orifices of at least one of said grids have a section that diminishes in the direction from said reservoir toward said pad.

7. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 2 including a ring with an inside edge adapted to clamp the periphery of said membrane against one of said grids.

8. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 including a ring with an inside edge adapted to clamp the periphery of said membrane against said pad.

9. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 8 wherein said membrane has a portion covering the edge of the face of said pad that faces said reservoir.

10. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 8 wherein said pad has a groove receiving said inside edge of said ring.

11. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 7 wherein said ring is conformed to conceal the connection region between said membrane and said reservoir.

12. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 wherein the peripheral face of said pad is at least partly covered by an envelope made of a synthetic foam that is harder than the foam forming said pad.

13. (Currently amended) The powder applicator claimed in claims 8 and ~~12~~ including a ring with an inside edge adapted to clamp the periphery of said membrane against said pad and wherein said envelope has a groove receiving the interior edge of said ring.

14. (Currently amended) The powder applicator claimed in claims 10 and ~~12~~ wherein said pad has a groove receiving said inside edge of said ring and said envelope is interrupted at said groove.

15. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 12 wherein said envelope is set back relative to the face of said pad that is against said membrane.

16. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 wherein said pad is machined to a mushroom shape.

17. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 16 wherein said envelope is conformed to espouse said mushroom shape of said pad.

18. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 wherein an exterior wall of said membrane is flocked.

19. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 wherein said membrane has pores with an average diameter of the order of 0.1 mm distributed at the rate of approximately 130 pores per centimeter.

20. (Original) The powder applicator claimed in claim 1 wherein said pad has pores with an average diameter of the order of 2 mm distributed at the rate of approximately eight pores per centimeter.

21. (New) The powder applicator claimed in claim 12 including a ring with an inside edge adapted to clamp the periphery of said membrane against said pad and wherein said envelope has a groove receiving the interior edge of said ring.

22. (New) The powder applicator claimed in claim 12 wherein said pad has a groove receiving said inside edge of said ring and said envelope is interrupted at said groove.